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Convention to Combat Desertification

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Note by the secretariat

The third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will be held from 15 to 26 November 1999 at Recife, Brazil. The present document contains some general information that may be helpful to participants. The session will be hosted by the Government of Brazil in accordance with decision 24/COP.2 of the Conference of the Parties.

1. Venue of the session

The third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will be held in the Pernambuco Convention Centre (Centro de Convencoes de Pernambuco), situated at Olinda, in the metropolitan area of the city of Recife, at the following address:

P.e - BrazilZip - 53110-900
Telephone: +(55 81) 241 79 66 / 427 81 31
Fax: +(55 81) 241 90 11
E-mail: dicom@fisipe.pe.gov.br
Person to contact: Fransisco Rosario

The conference will be opened on Monday 15 November 1999 at 3 p.m. in the Plenary Hall. The morning will be devoted to informal consultations. In addition to the Plenary Hall, another meeting room with simultaneous interpretation during normal working hours will be available. Other premises can also be used for informal meetings without interpretation, subject to arrangements made with the secretariat. Working hours will normally be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2. Conference secretariat

The head of the Conference secretariat is Mr. Hama Arba Diallo (Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention).

The secretariat can be reached at the following address:

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Haus Carstanjen
Martin-Luther-King Strasse 8
D-53175 Bonn, Germany
Tel. +(49 228) 815 28 02
Fax: +(49 228) 815 28 98 / 99
E-mail: secretariat@unccd.de

3. National Organizing Committee (NOC)

The Government of Brazil has established a National Organizing Committee (NOC) consisting of members of all ministerial departments involved, relevant authorities from the State of Pernambuco and local authorities from Recife, as well as representatives of other governmental agencies. Its chairman is Mr. Lauro Sergio Figueiredo, Director in the Ministry of Environment of Brazil and its address is:

SGAN Q. 601-4° floor
Zip 70830 - 901
Brasilia
Telephone: +(55 61) 224 70 20
+(55 61) 225 49 82
Fax: +(55-61) 225 49 82
+(55-61) 225 99 87

4. Hotel accommodation

The NOC has already reserved the necessary accommodation in the town's main hotels at special rates (see list annexed).

5. Accreditation

The credentials of representatives of Parties and the names of alternate representatives and advisers must be communicated either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. To ensure full participation in the work of the Conference, it is recommended that representatives of Parties should be provided with full powers to participate in the session and, if necessary, to serve as officers of the Conference of the Parties at its third session and any sessional committees or working groups, as well as officers of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention.

Credentials must be submitted to the secretariat of the Convention. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties at its third session will examine the credentials and report to the session.

Observer States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations must also be accredited.

It is strongly recommended that participants send their accreditation in advance to the secretariat at the following fax numbers, so as to facilitate their registration during the Conference:

Fax: +(49 228) 815 28 98
+(49 228) 815 28 99

6. Immigration formalities

The Brazilian Government advises that the immigration formalities will be facilitated in its embassies or consulates, according to prevailing Brazilian regulations. Applications may be submitted, with reference to the Conference, to the nearest Brazilian embassy or consulate.

According to World Health Organization recommendations, participants coming from certain geographic areas must submit their international certificate of vaccination against yellow fever.

7. Customs regulations

Information on customs regulations in force in Brazil may be obtained from any Brazilian embassy or consulate.

8. Recife airport

Recife's international airport welcomes all participants. A reception committee will be present at the airport throughout the Conference and an information office identifiable by the Convention's logo will be established.

Participants will reach their hotels by a commercial transfer service available on arrival.

9. Transport

Given the fact that the Pernambuco Convention Centre is situated outside of the city of Recife (metropolitan area) where most of the hotels are situated, a shuttle service will be arranged by the NOC to provide transport for participants on a commercial basis, between the main hotels and the Conference site.

Details of this transport service as well as its cost will be decided upon in the near future in the light of reservations confirmed by participants.

10. Restaurants

The restaurants of the Pernambuco Convention Centre will be open to participants. In addition, a large number of restaurants in the vicinity of the Convention Centre offer quality services at reasonable prices.

11. Registration

Identity badges will be issued at the time of registration and participants are requested to wear them at all times, since they will be allowed access to the Pernambuco Convention Centre only upon their presentation. Registration will begin at the Conference site at the following times:

Friday 12 November 1999	afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m.
Sunday 14 November 1999	morning from 10 a.m. to noon afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m.

It will continue from 15 November 1999 on the basis of the timetable that will be announced. Details concerning the exact location of the registration counter for national delegations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other observers, as well as for the media and the staff of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes, will be communicated before the start of the Conference of the Parties.

12. List of speakers

A list of speakers for the special segment as well as for other sessions of the Plenary will be opened at a time and subject to conditions to be announced in the Journal of the General Assembly.

13. Medical services

A medical service will be available in the Pernambuco Convention Centre. In addition, the National Organizing Committee will make the necessary arrangements to cope with any medical emergencies.

14. Telephone and fax services

An office offering telephone and fax facilities on a commercial basis, which will be charged for, will remain open throughout the session at the Pernambuco Convention Centre for the convenience of delegations and other participants. Cellular phone can be rented at the airport.

15. Additional services available in the Pernambuco Convention Centre for participants

Participants in the Conference will be able to use the various facilities of the Pernambuco Convention Centre, namely post office (stamps and letter boxes), bank, bar and snack services.

16. Meeting and exhibition facilities

A limited number of meeting facilities will be available to participants for presentations and informal meetings. Arrangements can be made through the secretariat on a first-come-first-served basis. Participants wishing to make exhibits are invited to contact Mr. Antonio Fernando Cruz de Mello at:

Tel. +(55 61) 317 11 46
317 14 16
317 13 14

Fax: +(55 61) 323 86 90
322 89 39

Email: doglas.purificacao@mma.gov.br

17. Press centre

An international press centre will be provided for accredited journalists. For information concerning accreditation, please contact:

Ms. Sonia Filippazzi

Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification
Haus Carstanjen
Martin-Luther-King Strasse 8
D-53175 Bonn, Germany
Tel. +(49 228) 815 28 07
Fax: +(49-228) 815 28 98 / 99

or

Mr. Michael Williams

Information Unit on Conventions (IUC)
CP 356
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva (Switzerland)
Tel. +(41 22) 979 92 42
Fax: +(41 22) 797 34 64
E-mail: michael.williams@unep.ch

18. Additional events

A special calendar of any additional parallel events which may be organized in Recife or in other parts of Brazil, will be published. Excursions as well as cultural events are envisaged.

19. General information about Recife

Flights: Some airlines have flights direct to Recife and many others through Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo. Most of the international airlines arrive in Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo.

Vaccination: See topic 6.

Currency: Real - 1 real = around 0.5 US dollars (indicative rate).

Climate: Tropical.

Electricity: 220 volts, 60 hertz.

Local time: GMT -3

Further information is available in the NOC home page: www.mma.gov.br/port/gab/asin/cop.

Annex

Category	Hotel/Home page	Rates*	Phone/fax
*****	Hotel Atlante Plaza www.atlanteplaza.com.br	Single - USD 100 Double - USD 115	(5581) 462-3333
*****	Mar Hotel Recife www.marhotel.com.br	Single - USD 100 Double - USD 115	(5581) 462-4444 (5581) 462.4445
*****	Parthenon Recife Flat www.accorbrasil.com.br	Single - USD 72 Double - USD 72	(5581) 461-5000
*****	Parthenon Quatro Rodas Flat www.accorbrasil.com.br	Single - USD 62 Double - USD 88	(5581) 431-2955
*****	Parthenon Navegantes Flat www.accorbrasil.com.br	Single - USD 72 Double - USD 72	(5581) 466-1185
*****	Parthenon Golden Beach www.accorbrasil.com.br	Single - USD 72 Double - USD 72	(5581) 468-3002
*****	Hotel Recife Monte www.recifemontehotel.com.br	Single - USD 50 Double - USD 56	(5581) 465-7422
*****	Recife Palace Lucsim Hotel	Single - USD 115 Double - USD 130	(5581) 465-6888 (5581) 465-6767
*****	Sheraton Recife Hotel www.sheraton.com/recife	Single - USD 145 Double - USD 145	(5581) 468-1288
****	Best Western Manibu Recife www.bestwestern.com.br	Single - USD 60 Double - USD 65	(5581) 465-2811 (5581) 465-4805
****	Blue Tree Caesar Towers Recife www.bluetree.com.br	Single - USD 70 Double - USD 70	(5581) 468-1255
****	Hotel Canarius Palace	Single - USD 37 Double - USD 40	(5581) 465-1532 (5581) 326-6226
****	Hotel Holiday Inn Recife www.modesto.com.br	Single - USD 79 Double - USD 79	(5581) 465-7050 (5581) 326-3009
****	Internacional Lucsim Hotel	Single - USD 85 Double - USD 95	(5581) 465-5022 (5581) 326-7661

****	Litopark Hotel	Single - USD 33 Double - USD 37	(5581) 465-4433 (5581) 465-2130
****	Marante Plaza Hotel	Single - USD 50 Double - USD 60	(5581) 465-1070 (5581) 465-1159
****	Novotel Chaves www.accorbrasil.com.br www.accorhotel.com	Single - USD 64 Double - USD 75	(5581) 468-4343 (5581) 468-4344
****	Onda Mar Hotel www.eloqica.com.br/ondamar	Single - USD 55 Double - USD 55	(5581) 465-2833
****	Hotel Savaroni	Single - USD 50 Double - USD 56	(5581) 465-4299 (5581) 326-4900
***	Hotel Costeiro Olinda www.costeiro.com.br	Single - USD 16 Double - USD 17	(5581) 429-4877
***	Hotel 4 de Outubro	Single - USD 18 Double - USD 24	(5581) 424-4477
***	Praia Othon www.hoteis-othon.com.br	Single - USD 50 Double - USD 55	(5581) 231-1200
***	Hotel Marolinda Residence	Single - USD 30 Double - USD 37	(5581) 325-5200
***	Marolinda Inn	Single - USD 25 Double - USD 31	(5581) 462-1958
***	Hotel 7 Colinas	Single - USD 35 Double - USD 40	(5581) 439-6055

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* Taxes not included: around 10%
Deadline for confirmations: 15 October 1999